Contracciones

Can't y couldn't: no poder

Cannot se acorta a can't: no poder ahora. Could not se acorta a couldn't: en estas frases, no poder en un momento pasado. Ambas formas sirven con cualquier sujeto. El verbo siguiente va en su forma básica, sin to: I can't swim. Could también tiene otros usos; aquí solo comparamos capacidad o posibilidad ahora y en el pasado.

Ejemplo resuelto

Yesterday the gate was locked. We ____ get through. → Yesterday the gate was locked. We couldn't get through.

Ayer la verja estaba cerrada con llave. No pudimos pasar.

Completa con la contracción negativa de can para la situación actual o de could para la situación pasada descrita.

01. The phone battery is dead. Right now you _____ call anyone on it.

02. Last night the power went out. They _____ watch TV.

03. I forgot my glasses. Right now I _____ read the menu.

04. There are no seats left. Right now we _____ sit down.

05. Last night Tom lost his glasses. He _____ read his book.

06. Yesterday the door was locked. Ben _____ get inside.

07. The soup is too hot now. He _____ eat it yet.

08. The fog is thick today. We _____ see the mountains.

09. The rain is too heavy now. I _____ see the road clearly.

10. When we arrived yesterday, the tickets were sold out. We _____ buy any.

11. At age three, Lily _____ read books on her own.

12. The lid is too tight right now. I _____ open the jar.

13. The sign is too far away. Right now they _____ read it.

14. Last night the music was too loud. We _____ sleep.

15. My hands are full right now. I _____ carry another bag.

16. Last Friday the train was full. They _____ find seats.

17. The shelf is too high. Right now she _____ reach it.

18. As a baby, I _____ walk.

19. Last month Emma broke her arm. She _____ play tennis then.

20. Yesterday the road was flooded. The bus _____ get through.

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Continuación: ejercicios 21-40. Completa con la contracción negativa de can para la situación actual o de could para la situación pasada descrita.

21. His ankle hurts today. He _____ run.

22. The room is too noisy now. You _____ hear the teacher.

23. Yesterday Nora's bike had a flat tire. She _____ ride it.

24. I have no money with me now. I _____ pay for lunch.

25. Last week the bridge was closed. We _____ cross it.

26. The printer has no paper now. We _____ print the tickets.

27. This box is too heavy for me now. I _____ lift it.

28. The toy is out of reach now. The baby _____ touch it.

29. Last Saturday the pool was closed. You _____ swim there.

30. Yesterday my pen ran out of ink. I _____ finish the note.

31. Yesterday we had no key. We _____ unlock the gate.

32. This door is too narrow. Right now the sofa _____ fit through it.

33. There is no water in the house today. They _____ take a shower.

34. At age two, Leo _____ ride a bike without help.

35. My laptop is broken. Right now I _____ use it.

36. Yesterday you had no signal. You _____ send a text message.

37. Last winter the lake froze. The boats _____ sail across it.

38. Last summer Max was ill. He _____ join our hiking trip.

39. We have no internet connection now. We _____ send the email.

40. Yesterday Mia had a sore throat. She _____ sing.

Soluciones

Frases con el hueco completado. La respuesta aparece en negrita.

01. Right now you **can't** call anyone on it.
02. They **couldn't** watch TV.
03. Right now I **can't** read the menu.
04. Right now we **can't** sit down.
05. He **couldn't** read his book.
06. Ben **couldn't** get inside.
07. He **can't** eat it yet.
08. We **can't** see the mountains.
09. I **can't** see the road clearly.
10. We **couldn't** buy any.
11. At age three, Lily **couldn't** read books on her own.
12. I **can't** open the jar.
13. Right now they **can't** read it.
14. We **couldn't** sleep.
15. I **can't** carry another bag.
16. They **couldn't** find seats.
17. Right now she **can't** reach it.
18. As a baby, I **couldn't** walk.
19. She **couldn't** play tennis then.
20. The bus **couldn't** get through.
21. He **can't** run.
22. You **can't** hear the teacher.
23. She **couldn't** ride it.
24. I **can't** pay for lunch.
25. We **couldn't** cross it.
26. We **can't** print the tickets.
27. I **can't** lift it.
28. The baby **can't** touch it.
29. You **couldn't** swim there.
30. I **couldn't** finish the note.
31. We **couldn't** unlock the gate.
32. Right now the sofa **can't** fit through it.
33. They **can't** take a shower.
34. At age two, Leo **couldn't** ride a bike without help.
35. Right now I **can't** use it.
36. You **couldn't** send a text message.
37. The boats **couldn't** sail across it.
38. He **couldn't** join our hiking trip.
39. We **can't** send the email.
40. She **couldn't** sing.